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*The Abbé Sieyès. An Essay in the Politics of the French Revolution.* By J. H. CLAPHAM. (London: P. S. King and Son, 1912. Pp. vii, 268.)

As the author gratefully acknowledges in his preface, this book is the result of a suggestion of the late Lord Acton in his inspiring lectures at Cambridge on the French Revolution. In two ways, Mr. Clapham has rendered a distinct service, he has written a careful biography of a remarkable man, and he has produced such an account of the political evolution of France during the revolutionary period as only the trained scholar can achieve. Moreover, there was special need of a biography of Sieyès, for the only other modern account of his life is that of M. Newton, published in 1900.

In the first of his eight chapters, Mr. Clapham gives a concise sketch of the Sieyès family, and of the making of the Abbé's opinions. Like Voltaire, he was educated chiefly by the Jesuits, of whom he became a formidable and implacable enemy. "That body he hated, as he hated most of the other corporate bodies of the old order, Parlements and chartered companies and guilds." Indeed, "Emmanuel, it would seem, was a child of no religious bent, who never acquired so much as an interest in the service of the church." He was ordained priest in 1773, but before that event, as he declared twenty years later, he had "succeeded in dismissing from his own mind every notion or sentiment of a superstitious nature;" a "complete preparation for the Christian ministry," adds the author. His actual religion was inspired by the generous humanism of the eighteenth century philosophy.

Before the Revolution, Sieyès's theory of the state, his "system" of political thought, was virtually completed. It is in tracing the growth, appraising the value, and pointing out the applications of the Abbé's doctrines, throughout the many vicissitudes of his broad span of life, which ended in 1836, that Mr. Clapham has rendered his chief service. Sieyès was not a great statesman. Perhaps he must be classed not above the second or third rank. Yet, the importance of his place in history and the quality of his thought have been much underrated. For practical politics he had unique talent; and in surprisingly many ways he anticipated the most progressive views of our age. His adversaries learned that "he had a long and sure sight." He was a "long-sighted tactician;" and rightly it has been said that he had a genius "for finding the key to a given political position." Hence he was a "dangerous tactician, whose influence both on ideas and on affairs had to be reckoned

with at each crisis of the Revolution." Moreover, throughout his career the Abbé stood by his system. In the main, he was true to his political faith. He was sometimes a coward; he committed base acts; he degenerated in character: yet he seldom lost an opportunity to put to the test the doctrines which he believed in as essential to a free state.

It is this constancy, this consistency, which renders the life of Sieyès so instructive to the student of political theory. In the chapters which deal in succession with the larger phases of the Abbé's career, Mr. Clapham has taken much care to trace the expression of the ideas of Sieyès in laws, the constitutions, and the political programs on which his influence was brought to bear. For this reason, aside from the excellence of the narrative, his book will be a singularly helpful guide to the constitutional development of the revolutionary period.

GEORGE ELLIOTT HOWARD.

*The Democratic Mistake.* Godkin Lectures of 1909 delivered at Harvard University. By ARTHUR GEORGE SEDGWICK. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1912. Pp. 217.)

*The Relations of Education to Citizenship.* By SIMEON E. BALDWIN. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1912. Pp. 178.)

*Government by All the People.* By DELOS F. WILCOX. (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1912. Pp. viii, 324.)

*Direct Elections and Law Making by Popular Vote.* By EDWIN M. BACON and MORRILL WYMAN. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1912. Pp. iv, 167.)

*The Oregon System.* By ALLEN H. EATON. (Chicago: A. C. McClurg and Company, 1912. Pp. viii, 195.)

The efforts of the American people to bring their eighteenth century constitutions into accord with twentieth century needs are the source of much political literature, which while the particular theme may vary is all related to a common movement of thought. The recent publications in this field instanced above may therefore be advantageously brought together for consideration.

In writings of a propagandist character a state of logical inversion is often found in the argument. Instead of the conclusions resting upon the premises the premises rest upon the conclusions. Assumptions are